



BEHREND BEACON

PENN STATE ERIE, THE BEHREND COLLEGE

www.thebehrendbeacon.com

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CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION

Bookstore renovations finished over break

BY CONNOR SATTELY
editor-in-chief

Six months after the \$1.5 million project to renovate parts of Reed began, Penn State Behrend students finally have what Bookstore Manager Heidi Savage calls a "real college store."

The renovation was originally intended to essentially shear the bookstore in half, using the empty vertical space to create more room for offices above. In the process, the bookstore would be remodeled to increase space usage and visibility.

The result is a bookstore vastly improved in visibility and aesthetics.

Though the bookstore has actually decreased in square footage, the staff

is able to display much more merchandise, particularly clothing, because of modernized space usage and reorganization.

Main features of the new bookstore include an information desk, much like at a private bookstore chain, which will allow students to direct questions away from the front register. Also, a desk is reserved for web order

pickups, to make fall and spring semester book rushes easier, and less confusing.

The half-year process, though, did not come without its bumps along the way.

"We've been talking about it for years," says Savage, "and suddenly it just happened. Moving to McGarvey was pretty rough; it was a little cramped."

Switching things back over was no easy ordeal either, she says. The staff, with help from managers of other commonwealth campuses, moved the entire bookstore into its current space in three days.

As for the staff, they are just relieved that the project is over.

"It's awesome; it's like a real college

store," says Savage. "It's definitely more inviting. People will enjoy it more. They'll just feel better coming in."

Construction over the bookstore, out of sight of shoppers, continues. The Career Development Center will share space with the Division of Undergraduate studies in what Director of Student Affairs Ken Miller says is a "one-stop shop" for finding a career or major.

Those new offices will include interview rooms, video conferencing centers, several computer kiosks, and a large conference room open for use of any department or student organization on-campus. Miller expects that the project will be finished by the second week of September.

STUDENT FINANCE

Tuition up 3.9% since last year

BY CHRISTINE NEWBY
managing editor

On July 17, Penn State University Board of Trustees decided to support the lower of two proposed tuition increases, resulting in a 3.9% raise in Behrend's tuition for lower-division Pennsylvania resident students in the fall 2009 semester.

The tuition increase marks the lowest increase in Penn State's recent history, according to the Behrend website.

The increase raises tuition \$226 per semester for students who have less than 59.1 credits.

Chancellor Jack Burke said that the money from the tuition increase usually go to three areas: salary increases, benefit changes, and utilities costs.

"Most of the benefit changes would have come out of our budget cut," he said. "Whether some goes into utilities, I don't know, but no money is going into salaries."

Despite the rise in tuition cost, the incoming freshman class has not been affected, according to Burke and Director of Student Affairs, Dr. Ken Miller.

"I would guess we are going to be up about 1% (in freshman enrolment) and that's about what we were trying to do," said Burke. "We were trying to hold our enrollments. Penn State in general, is in pretty good shape. That's because Penn State is very much in demand and has a good brand name and reputation. The other reason is that as expensive as we are as a public institution, we are still less expensive than a lot of privates."

If Penn State does not get funding from the state, there is a possibility that the tuition increase could rise in between the fall 2009 and spring 2010 semester. However, Burke and Miller both agree that the chance of that happening is very small.

"It has never happened since

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Inside: See pictures of the newly renovated bookstore.

Online: Visit us online at www.thebehrendbeacon.com to see more photos of the Bookstore's transformation.

Meisha Freeborough

Sophomore
Pol Sci

Hometown:
Warren, Pa.

Birthplace:
Warren, Pa.

Why did you become an Orientation Leader?

"I wanted to meet some new faces, and help freshmen move in."

What can you tell freshmen that you wish someone had told you?

Get involved: it's a great way to meet people. And seek out help from professors, or the LRC.

Favorite memory at Behrend:
Bowling with the Orientation Leaders!

Ehtsham Yasir

Sophomore
Mech. Engineering

Hometown:
Sayre, Pa.

Birthplace:
Islamabad, Pakistan

Why did you become an Orientation Leader?

"To do something productive - better than sitting and doing nothing."

What can you tell freshmen that you wish someone had told you?

"I wish someone had told me about intramurals, and how fun they are. Now, I do that every week."

Favorite memory at Behrend:
Going to Gulfport for Alternative Spring Break last year.

A Wealth of Knowledge

Each year, over a thousand students are greeted by the smiling faces of a group of Behrend's friendliest and most knowledgeable:

Orientation Leaders.

These students, from various backgrounds and with different interests, provide a wealth of knowledge to new students in fall.

Rhett Keffer

Sophomore
Elec. Engineering

Hometown:
Grove City, Pa.

Birthplace:
Grove City, Pa.

Why did you become an Orientation Leader?

"I love to meet new people, and I love helping with community service events."

What can you tell freshmen that you wish someone had told you?

"Talk to professors!"

Favorite memory of Behrend:

"Going with the choir to New York City."

Photos by Daniel Smith - design and story by Connor Sattely

Student Activities to add club coordinator position

BY MICHAEL O. WEHRER
news editor

There will be a new face in the Office of Student Activities starting this semester.

Student Activities has decided to create a student organizations and program development coordinator position to "Advise various student organizations regarding policies, procedures, budgets, etc." and "assist in the planning and management of other student special events," according to the job description on the

Behrend website.

Director of Student Activities Kris Torok said that in the past, if a club or organization wanted to host an event, they would have to go through several steps for approval and scheduling.

By creating this position, Student Activities is hoping to streamline this process and make someone available to clubs and organizations to "help the clubs in the preparation for SGA budget requests SAF proposals."

The new coordinator would also act as a resource for club advisors by providing training and workshops and

help in other areas, said Torok, such as assisting clubs with websites, summer activities, and getting publicity. "Basically what we want is for each club to have a link to the club's homepage when accessing the list of clubs and organizations"

Torok also wants to create a publicity center for the clubs to use. "What we envision is a place where clubs and organizations can get together and create publicity for their events," Torok said.

"Student Activities is looking for someone student centered, with a

good work ethic and a high energy level to fill this position. We identified people we would like more info about. From there we narrow it down to who we would like to bring to campus"

Torok said that the initial phone interviews have already taken place, and she is looking to include students in the final selection committee of six to nine people.

Additional reporting by Heather McGovern.

"Student Activities is looking for someone student-centered, a good work ethic, high energy"

KRIS TOROK
Director of Student Activities

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Scattered Thunderstorms

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Scattered Showers

- Matt Alto, Weather Editor

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